

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-13 ACDA-19 NIC-01

OPR-02 M-03 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-10 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 FAA-00 RSR-01 /194 W
----- 049023

P R 251000Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4378

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AMEMBASSY KATMANDU

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5492

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP - CURRENT SITUATION

REF: A) KABUL 5478 (NOTAL) B) KABUL 5397

1. FOURTEEN MEMBERS FORMER ROYAL FAMILY DEPARTED KABUL
MORNING JULY 25 FOR ITALY AND PROBABLE PERMANENT EXILE (REFTEL A).
ABDUL WALI AND HIS FATHER MARSHAL SHAH WALI KHAN REMAIN IN
KABUL UNDER DETENTION.

2. PRESIDENT DAUD HELP PRESS BRIEFING EVENING JULY 24 FOR
ABOUT 20 FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENTS, INCLUDING
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FRENCH AND ITALIAN RADIO-TV, AP, UPI, WASHINGTON POST AND

TIME REPRESENTATIVES. DAUD TOLD JOURNALISTS LITTLE THAT WE HAD NOT HEARD BEFORE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HE SAID: 1) OLD CONSTITUTION NO LONGER VALID AND PARLIAMENT CEASES TO EXIST; 2) NO FUTURE POLITICAL ROLE WILL BE PERMITTED DEPOSED KING AND HIS FAMILY, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED AFGHAN CITIZENS; 3) NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM MAY REQUIRE SUSPENSION SOME BASIC FREEDOMS; 4) THERE WOULD BE NEW CONSTITUTION AND IT WOULD BE DEMOCRATIC; 5) SOME MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO FACE TRIAL; AND 6) HE WAS NOT YET PREPARED TO PASS JUDGMENT ON HELMAND WATERS TREATY WITH IRAN, SINCE HE WAS NOT PRIME MINISTER AT TIME IT NEGOTIATED AND HAD NOT YET STUDIED IT. (BRITISH AMBASSADOR DRINKALL TOLD AMBASSADOR NEUMANN DAUD GAVE HIM SIMILAR RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON TREATY.) HE ALSO VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT COUP WAS DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS FOR USSR. HE SAID THERE WAS NO RPT NO HELP FROM OUTSIDE AND THAT COUP MAKERS WOULD DETERMINE FUTURE OF COUNTRY, NOT FOREIGNERS. HE WAS VAGUE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT PUSHTUNISTAN, SAYING BOTH SIDES MUST DEAL WITH REALITY AND SEEK AMICABLE SOLUTION.

3. LARGE PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS HELD JULY 21, 22 AND 23 AT PASHTUNISTAN SQUARE. SEVERAL YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS, LED BY CAPT. ZAHIR TORKMANI, WERE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS. THEY CASTIGATED FORMER KING ZAHIR AND HIS ASSOCIATES FOR EVILS THEY HAD PERPETRATED; ASSERTED THAT ALL MINORITIES (TAJIKS, HAZARAS, TORKOMANS AND SHI'ITES) WOULD BE EQUAL UNDER NEW REGIME AND THEY GAVE BOASTFUL ACCOUNTS OF THEIR ROLE IN EVENTS JULY 17. SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION EVENING JULY 24 WAS BROKEN UP AND CROWD DISPERSED BY MILITARY TROOPS.

4. KABUL OUTWARDLY HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL. TRAFFIC FLOWING WELL EXCEPT IN FEW AREAS STILL BLOCKED OFF BY TROOPS. BAZAAR ECONOMY FUNCTIONING IN NORMAL FASHION. BUSINESSMEN REPORT NO HINDRANCE OF THEIR OPERATIONS (EXCEPT SOME FOOD DEALERS BEING FORCED TO SELL MEAT AND OTHER CONSUMABLES AT LOWER PRICES). MONEY EXCHANGES ARE OPEN ALTHOUGH NOT ACCEPTING CHECKS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED THROUGH CENSORSHIP OF ALL OUTGOING CABLES AND MAIL. TELEPHONE SERVICE RESTORED IN KABUL AFTERNOON OF JULY 23 AND NORMAL AIRLINE LINKS ARE NOW OPEN BUT WITH DEPARTURE DELAYS REGULAR OCCURRENCE
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DUE TO AIRPORT SECURITY RESTRICTIONS. EXCHANGE RATE FOR DOLLAR CLIMBED BRIEFLY FROM PRE-COUP LEVEL OF 54-55 AFS TO ONE DOLLAR TO 63 ON JULY 21, SINCE THEN HAS DROPPED BACK TO 58. PRIVATE TRADERS PLACING NORMAL ORDERS FOR NEW MERCHANDISE AND NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE QUALMS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE STABILITY.

5. USAID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AT VARIOUS MINISTRIES REPORT DAY TO DAY ONGOING INTERNAL WORK OF THEIR MINISTRIES (SPECIFICALLY

FINANCE AND MINES AND INDUSTRIES) CONTINUES TO FUNCTION NORMALLY BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROGRAMS REQUIRING FIELD TRIPS OR INTER-MINISTERIAL CO-OPERATION ARE LAGGING AS AS INDIVIDUALS PROBABLY AFRAID OF GETTING TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT. AS NEW GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATING ALL ITS ENERGIES ON CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION HIGHLY LIKELY THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DRIFT FOR NEAR FUTURE. DAY-TO-DAY WORK WILL GO ON BUT MAJOR DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTERS. (THERE ARE RUMORS THAT CIVILIAN CABINET WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN NEAR FUTURE).

6. SUBSEQUENT TO AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRESIDENT-PRIME MINISTER DAUD (REFTEL B), BOTH OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE AFGHAN PRESS (KABUL TIMES) AND RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED JULY 23 THAT UNITED STATES HAS EXTENDED "OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN".

7. SIDELIGHTS: ALL ARRIVALS AT AIRPORTS BEING SEARCHED BY MACHINE-GUN CARRYING MILITARY. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR ISPAHANI TRAVELLING BACK TO KABUL ON JULY 23 ON IRAN AIR FROM TEHRAN WAS SUBJECTED TO THOROUGH BODY SEARCH AT KANDAHAR STOPOVER. (PLANE ORDERED TO MAKE NON-SCHEDULED STOP THERE BY AFGHAN AUTHORITIES) IRAN AIR PILOT SAID HE WAS TOLD "MILITARY PLANES WERE ON RUNWAY IN KABUL" THEREFORE WAS ORDERED TO KANDAHAR TO WAIT. CAPTAIN REFUSED TO ALLOW ARMED SOLDIERS TO BOARD PLANE AND AFGHANS APPEAR TO HAVE RETALIATED BY MAKING ALL PASSENGERS AND CREW LINE UP OUTSIDE FOR BODY SEARCH AND THEN STAND OUT IN THE SUN FOR HOUR AND A HALF WAITING. ISPAHANI TOLD EMBOFF (WHO WAS ON PLANE) THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN TREATED SO BADLY IN ALL HIS LONG CAREER AND FELT LIKE TAKING THE FIRST PLANE OUT OF AFGHANISTAN IN RETALIATION.
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